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*Agency of Human Services*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** Hunt Blair, Deputy Director for Health Care Reform

**DATE:** August 13, 2009

**RE:** Regional Health Information Technology Extension Center Advisory Board

Last month, we convened a public meeting to discuss a coordinated response to the anticipated Federal funding of Regional Extension Centers to support HIT adoption and meaningful use. While it wasn't clear whether "regional" meant a multi-state region or statewide or sub-state regions, folks agreed that it made sense to at least begin to think about how Vermont might respond once funding becomes available. Since the, meeting further communication from the ONC (Office of the National Coordinator) indicates that there will be at least one Regional Extension Center per state.

The participants in the July meeting concluded that Vermont would be well served to create a multi-stakeholder group to provide guidance on development of an Extension Center. It was further agreed that VITL is the most likely "home" for the Extension Center, and the group urged the Advisory Board, once convened, to formalize that support so that it is on record in advance of funding announcements. That is not to prejudge either the Advisory Board's ultimate recommendation or VITL's decision about whether to apply for Extension Center funding; just to report that the conclusion of the public discussion to date is that VITL is the leading candidate for that role from the point of view of HIT-HIE stakeholders.

This Memo is to invite organizations and individuals to submit names of representatives to the Regional Health Information Technology Extension Center Advisory Board. At a minimum, because of the document released earlier this year by ONC about proposed preferences for funding applicants that include collaboration, it would be advantageous to include representatives from:

- public and/or private universities with health professions, informatics, and allied health programs;
- state or regional medical/professional societies and other provider organizations;
- federally recognized state primary care associations;
- state or regional hospital organizations;
- large health centers and networks of rural and/or community health centers;
- other relevant health professional organizations;
- the regionally relevant state Area Health Education Center(s);
- health information exchange organizations serving providers in the region;
- the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization(s) (QIO(s) serving providers that the proposed regional center aims to serve;
- state and tribal government entities in the center's geographic service area including, but not limited to, public health agencies; libraries and information centers with health professional and community outreach programs; and consumer/patient organizations.

Please submit names to Diane Hawkins (at [Diane.Hawkins@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:Diane.Hawkins@vdh.state.vt.us)) by September 4<sup>th</sup>.